

LIBRARY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report

ON THE HEALTH OF THE
Ormskirk Urban District


DURING THE YEAR

1947.

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29937991>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report

ON THE HEALTH OF THE
Ormskirk Urban District

DURING THE YEAR

1947.

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Ormskirk Urban District Council

Chairman COUNCILLOR JOHN PRESCOTT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman COUNCILLOR D. C. M. SCOTT.

Health and Hospital Committee

Chairman COUNCILLOR JOHN PRESCOTT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman COUNCILLOR W. J. COULTON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR L. C. BENNETT.
A. CARROLL.
A. P. LEA.
J. LIVSEY.
A. E. NEWALL.
E. PICKLES.
R. ROTHWELL.
W. SEPHTON.
D. TAYLOR.
C. W. VICKERS.

Staff of Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

C. F. H. SERGEANT, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspectors :

NORMAN W. CHADWICK, M.R.San.I

ALFRED HEALY, A.R.San.I.

To 14th July, 1947.

WILLIAM HIGGINS, A.R.San.I.

From 1st November, 1947.

Matron of Isolation Hospital :

Miss M. E. HARRIS, S.R.N.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Ormskirk.

Certain aspects of the Vital Statistics require comment. There was a slight increase in the Birth Rate at 17.8 compared with 17.4 in 1946, but this was offset by a large increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate, which rose to 64, an increase of 25 over the previous year and comparing unfavourably with the rate of 41 for England and Wales. This represents a serious loss of young lives. Further efforts must be made by all to reduce this high Infant death rate. In another part of the report the results of a local investigation into the Infant deaths are given, from which it will be seen that certain of these deaths were believed to be avoidable and that poor environmental conditions, lack of houses, overcrowding and poor mothercraft contribute to a high Infant Mortality Rate. Only improvement of these factors will reduce the number of Infant Deaths.

The General Death Rate at 13.4 also showed an increase over the rate for 1946, which was 10.6. This increase of 2.8 in all probability resulted from the long spell of exceptionally severe weather which was experienced in the early months of 1947 and which caused many deaths among the older members of the community.

The Maternal Mortality Rate was 7.75 per 1000 total births, and represents 3 deaths in child-birth during the year. This is a heavy Maternal Mortality Rate and is disappointing after the satisfactory record of Ormskirk, where only one maternal death occurred in the last six years. None of the deaths, however, resulted from infection, but were all classed as "other maternal causes," namely, two resulting from severe hæmorrhage and one from disease of the kidneys.

The general health of the district was good and the number of Infectious diseases continued at a low level. There were eight cases of diphtheria of which one was over school age. There were two deaths, both being children who had never been immunised.

The progress of Immunisation against Diphtheria continues to be satisfactory and 80.5 per cent. of the total child population has been immunised, a satisfactory position, although there is room for improvement among the pre-school age group.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest in the Health of the District, and also all the members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD.

July, 1948.

Annual Report for 1947.

—:o:—

SECTION 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. 15,608 acres.

Population. The population according to the 1931 Census was 17,121, but the Registrar General estimates that at the middle of 1947 the population was 20,990.

Number of Inhabited Houses. At the end of 1947 the number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books was 5,840.

The Rateable Value at the end of the year was £122,986, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £465.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Urban District of Ormskirk occupies 15,608 acres of the West Lancashire plain. The ancient town of Ormskirk is situated on the highest ground in the area, and the village of Newburgh is pleasantly sited on a small hill, otherwise the district is flat or gently undulating.

Three-quarters of the district is rural in character. The chief interest of the population is agriculture or allied employment ; indeed, Ormskirk is locally known as the capital of this large agricultural area, and the ruling prices at the weekly market are quoted all over the country.

Burscough is a small town 3 miles north of Ormskirk, and has a large permanent Army Ordnance Depot. Apart from agriculture, the chief industries include a brass foundry, 2 breweries, an ironfoundry, 2 timber yards, a printing and bookbinding works, a flour mill, an oatmeal mill, three brickworks, and factories for the manufacture of cakes and biscuits, wooden handles, neckwear, sausages, fertiliser and automobile oils.

Transport facilities are good. The main L.M.S. line from Liverpool to Scotland crosses the Southport-Manchester line at right angles in the centre of the district, and there are six railway stations in the area. Road transport services are good ; and there is also the Leeds and Liverpool Canal for the carriage of heavy merchandise.

Since 1931 the Urban District has included, in addition to Ormskirk, the townships of Lathom and Burscough, parts of Aughton, Bickerstaffe and Scarisbrick, and the hamlets of Newburgh and Westhead.

During the war years there was little progress or development, and the chief difficulties from which the population suffers are overcrowding and shortage of dwelling houses. However, the efforts of the Council have relived the housing shortage to some extent and a further 79 houses were built by the Council during the year, making a total of 111 completed since the war as well as 19 by private enterprise—a total of 130.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Registrar General's estimate, mid-194720,990

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	365	197	168
Illegitimate	10	4	6
Total	375	201	174

Birth Rate per 1,000, estimated population mid-1947—17·8.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Still births	12	6	6

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 31

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	282	147	135

Death Rate per 1,000, estimated population 13.4

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	3	7·75
Total maternal mortality	3	7·75

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	63
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	2
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

The Infant Mortality Rate is the number of Infant Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births and is an important index of the general health of the community. It is satisfactory to find that the Infantile Mortality figure throughout the country has steadily declined from 150 in 1900 to the present figure of 41 in 1947. Although this is the lowest figure ever recorded for the country as a whole it is still higher than many countries overseas, notably New Zealand, America and Scandinavia. There is no doubt that poor environmental conditions contribute to a high Infant Mortality Rate, lack of houses, overcrowding and poor mothercraft, and it is only with improvement of these factors that the number of Infant deaths will be reduced.

In Ormskirk, in 1947, however, the Infant Mortality Rate was 64 per 1000 live births compared with 39 in 1946, an increase of 25. As a result an enquiry has been made into all the Infant Deaths in the District and any Sociological Factors considered to be prejudicial to the healthy rearing of the Infant have been tabulated. The results of the enquiry are shown in the table.

It will be seen that of the 19 deaths investigated, 12 were due to Prematurity or Congenital Defects and were probably unavoidable, in 7 of these or 58.3 per cent. no adverse Sociological Factor was found, while in 5 or 41.7 per cent. adverse Sociological Factors were present. Seven deaths were due to other causes and were probably avoidable. In 2 of these or 28.6 per cent. no adverse Sociological Factor was found, while in 5 or 71.4 per cent. adverse Sociological Factors were present.

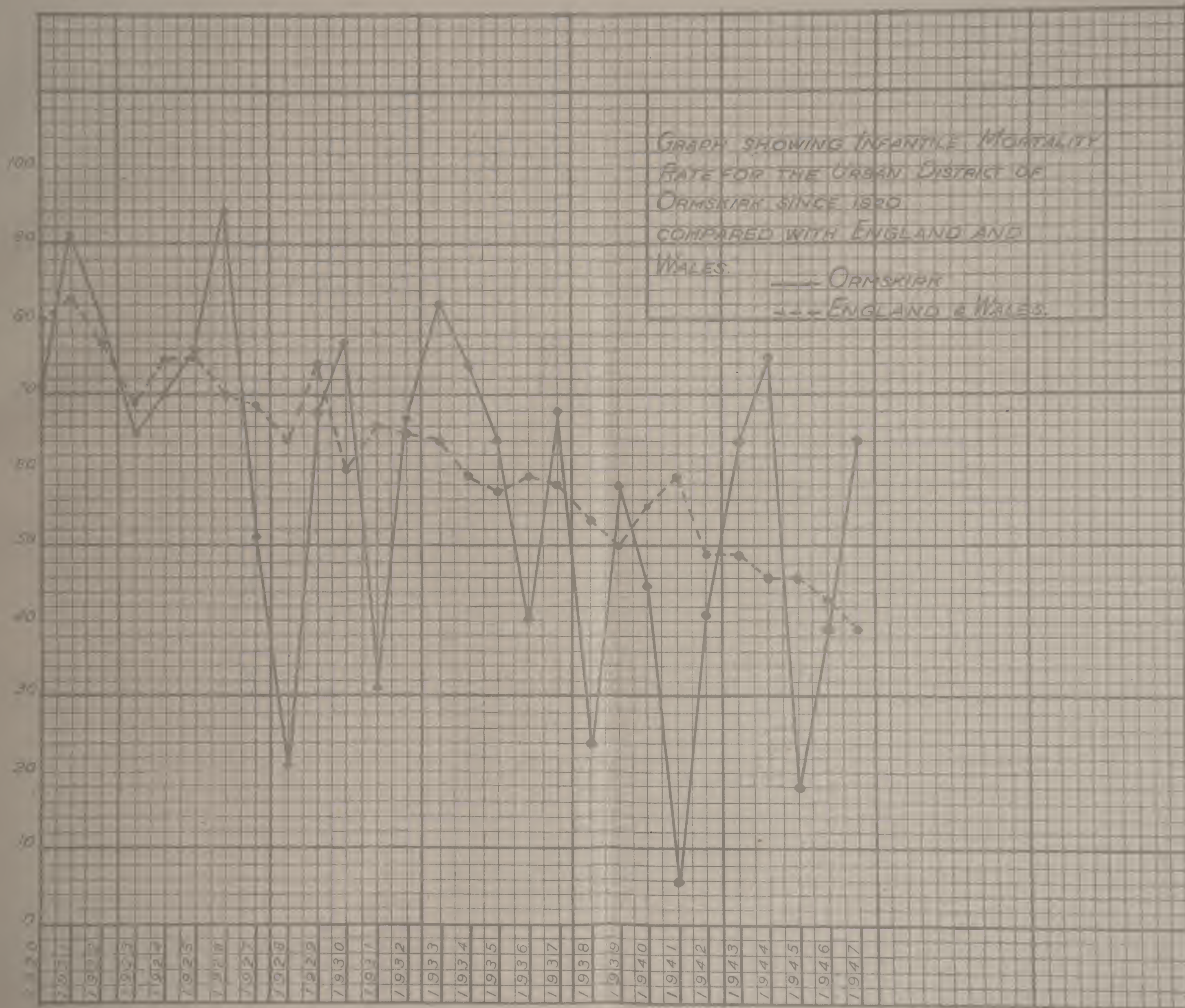
It will thus be seen that among the Infant deaths that are classed as avoidable, a sociological factor considered prejudicial to the healthy rearing of the Infant was present in 71.4 per cent.—a significant proportion even in such a small series.

The Infant Mortality figures can be improved and attention is directed particularly to the need for improved housing conditions, better education in mothercraft, an improved ante-natal service, more frequent health-visiting and improvement in the general health and dieting of the expectant mother.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS OCCORRING DURING 1947.

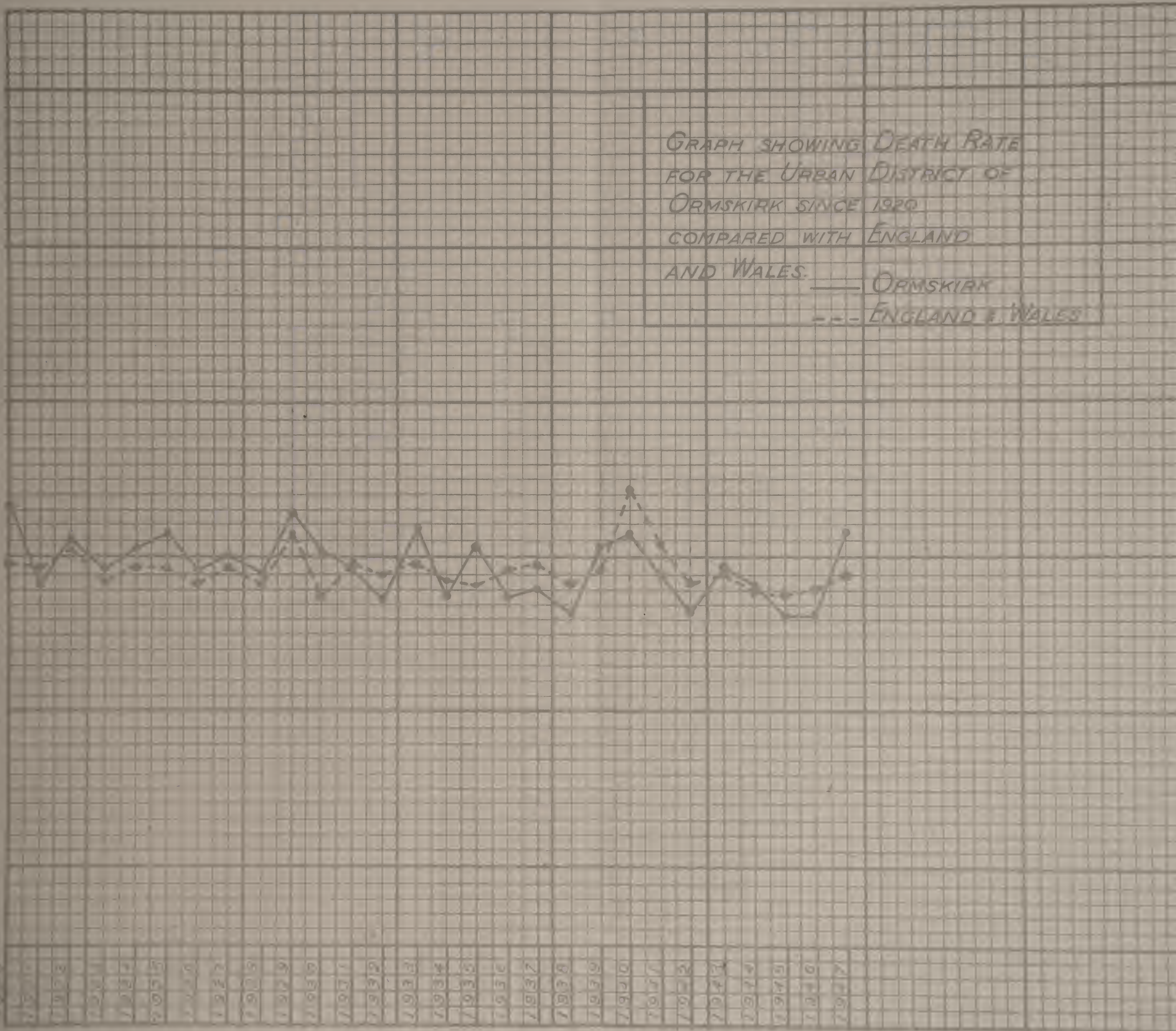
Case Number and Cause of Death.

	1. Marasmus	2. Congenital Malformation of Heart	3. Asphyxia	4. Spina Binda & Hydrocephalus	5. Asphyxia	6. Acute Broncho-Pneumonia	7. Meningitis	8. Atelectasis	9. Atelectasis	10. Acute Broncho-Pneumonia	11. Whooping Cough	12. Atelectasis	13. Icterus Gravis Neonatorum	14. Prematurity	15. Cerebral Compression	16. Prematurity	17. Prematurity	18. Broncho-Pneumonia	19. Prematurity
Sociological Factor considered prejudicial to health rearing of Infant																			
ENVIRONMENRAL.																			
1. Unsatisfactory Housing Conditions																			
MATERNAL.																			
2. Sub-normal intelligence of mother																			
3. Irresponsibility in Mother																			
4. Poor health in mother																			
5. Poor Mothercraft																			
PATERNAL.																			
6. Lack of responsibility in father																			
7. Sick Husband																			
ECONOMIC.																			
8. Inadequate Income																			
9. No resources ard nowhere to go after birth of baby																			
DOMESTIC.																			
10. Domestic diffculties																			
11. Large family of young children																			
OTHER.																			
12. An illegitimate baby																			
13. An unwanted (resented) baby																			
14. An open case of T.B. in the household																			
No Sociological Factor																			



GRAPH SHOWING DEATH RATE
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
ORMSKIRK SINCE 1920
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND
AND WALES. — ORMSKIRK
--- ENGLAND & WALES

26
25
24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0



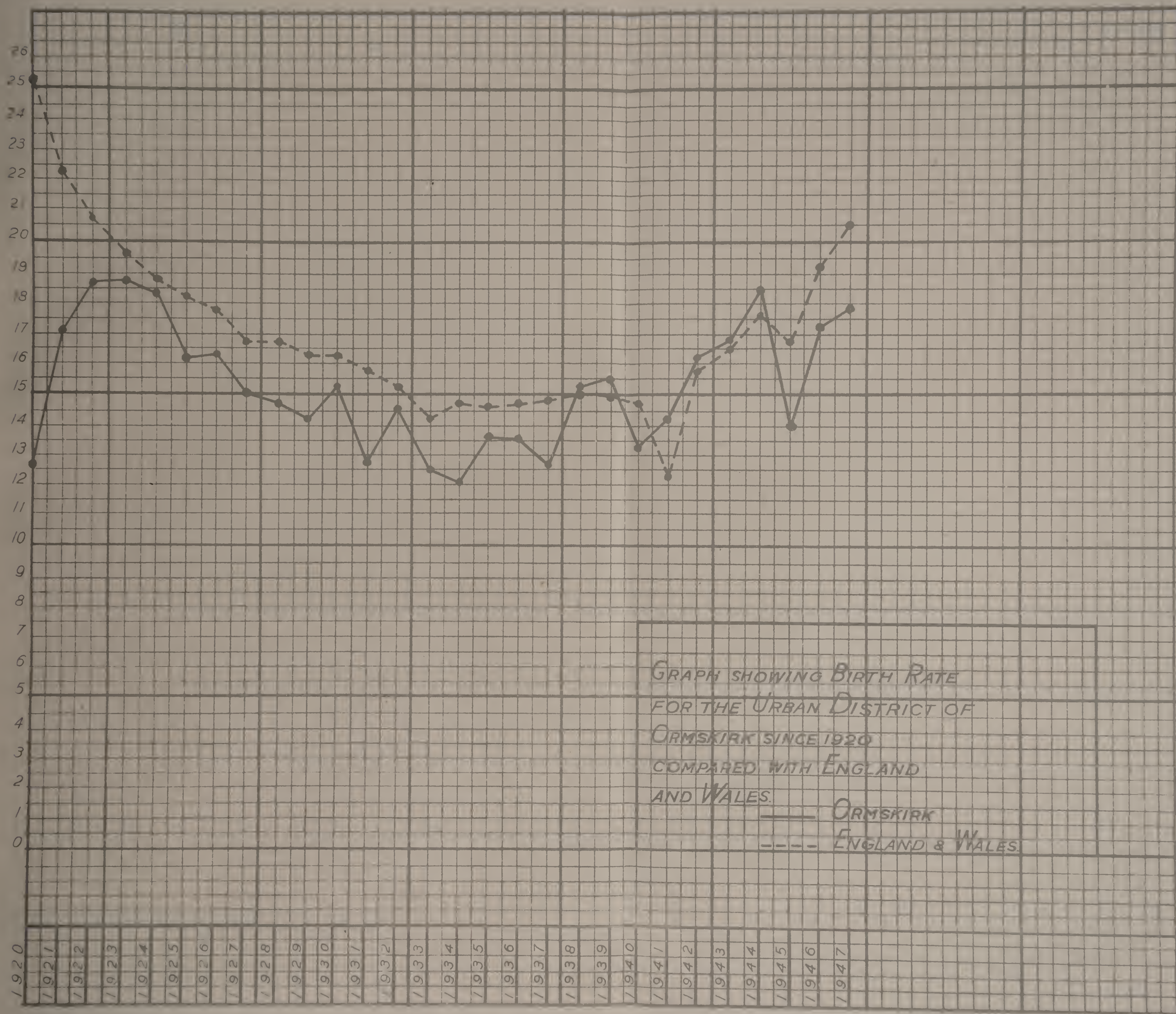


TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR ORMSKIRK (INCLUDING LATHOM AND BURSCOUGH).

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infantile Mort. Rate	
		England & Wales	Ormskirk	England & Wales	Ormskirk	England & Wales	Ormskirk
1920	14,124	25.4	12.7	12.4	14.0	80	71
1921	15,230	22.4	17.1	12.1	11.7	83	91
1922	15,257	20.6	18.7	12.9	13.0	77	80
1923	15,244	19.7	18.9	11.6	12.2	69	65
1924	15,272	18.8	18.5	12.2	12.8	75	70
1925	15,338	18.3	16.2	12.2	13.4	75	76
1926	15,509	17.8	16.3	11.6	12.3	70	94
1927	15,725	16.7	15.0	12.3	12.5	69	51
1928	15,406	16.7	14.9	11.7	12.1	64	21
1929	15,313	16.3	14.2	13.4	14.0	74	68
1930	15,950	16.3	15.4	11.4	12.6	60	77
1931	17,200	15.8	12.8	12.3	12.2	66	31
1932	17,240	15.3	14.5	12.0	11.1	65	67
1933	17,410	14.4	12.5	12.3	13.4	64	82
1934	17,670	14.8	12.1	11.8	11.3	59	74
1935	17,860	14.7	13.8	11.7	12.7	57	64
1936	18,090	14.8	13.6	12.1	11.2	59	40
1937	18,300	14.9	12.6	12.4	11.5	58	68
1938	18,400	15.1	15.2	11.6	10.7	53	24
1939	18,930	15.0	15.5	12.1	12.8	50	58
1940	19,660	14.6	13.3	14.3	13.1	55	45
1941	20,490	12.2	14.3	12.9	12.0	59	6
1942	20,200	15.8	16.6	11.6	10.8	49	41
1943	19,250	16.5	16.9	12.1	12.2	49	64
1944	18,500	17.6	18.5	11.6	11.7	46	75
1945	19,320	16.1	14.0	11.4	10.8	46	18
1946	20,360	19.1	17.4	11.5	10.6	43	39
1947	20,990	20.5	17.8	12.0	13.4	41	64

NOTE.—The figures for the years 1920–1930 inclusive are calculated from records of the two Urban Districts of Ormskirk and Lathom and Burscough. They are approximately comparable to the figures for the new Urban District from 1931 onwards.

	Per 1000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 LIVE births	Per 1,000 TOTAL (live and still) births	
Population—							
For birth-rate	20,990						
For death rates							
Mean o 5 years, 1942-1946	16.6	11.2	0.26	1.78	0.73	0.71	47
Year—1946	17.4	10.6	0.29	1.86	nil	nil	39
1947	17.8	13.4	0.38	1.85	8.00	7.75	64
Increase or decrease in 1946 on—							
5 years' average. 1941-1945	+1.2	+2.2	+0.12	+0.07	+7.27	+7.04	+17
Pervio s year	+0.4	+2.8	+0.09	−0.01	+8.00	+7.75	+25

The Birth rate for England and Wales was 20.5 for Ormskirk 17.8.
The Death rate for England and Wales was 12.0, for Ormskirk 13.4.
The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales was 41, for Ormskirk 64.

The Maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 1.17, for Ormskirk 7.75.

Details of the Deaths are as follows :—

CAUSES OF DEATH :	M.	F.
Whooping Cough.....	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	3	5
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	—	2
Influenza	—	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	—
Cancer (all forms)	17	22
Diabetes	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	16	13
Heart Diseases	46	40
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3
Bronchitis	11	7
Pneumonia	6	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3
Ulcer of the Stomach	5	1
Digestive Disesases	2	1

Nephritis	5	2
Maternal Causes	—	3
Premature Birth	4	—
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries	7	4
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
Other Violent Causes	2	3
All Other Causes	9	13
Total	147	135

SECTION 2.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

An E.M.S. Laboratory is established at the County Hospital, Ormskirk, and the majority of specimens are examined there. This has proved of great convenience for the local hospitals and general practitioners, since results are now obtained without delay. Certain specimens requiring more complicated procedure are sent to the City Bacteriological Laboratories, Liverpool.

The following specimens were sent for examination during the year :—

- 135 swabs for *Bacillus Diphtheria*.
- 21 swabs for *Haemolytic Streptococci*.
- 4 specimens of blood.
- 4 specimens of urine.
- 18 specimens of fæces.
- 21 specimens of milk.
- 4 specimens of water.
- 8 specimens of ice cream.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance services are considered adequate to meet the needs of the district. A motor ambulance is hired from the West Lancashire Rural District Council for infectious cases, while the Council's own ambulance, together with the Ormskirk General Hospital and the P.A.C. ambulances are available for non-infectious cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This work is carried out by the Ormskirk District Nursing Association and the Skelmersdale District Nursing Association, the latter organisation is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and its district includes Burscough Bridge, Lathom, Westhead, Hoscar and Newburgh. The work done by the District Nurses is of great value and is much appreciated.

The following table gives particulars of the work done by the two nursing associations during the year 1947.

CASES NURSED.					VISITS.			TOTAL.	
Midwifery	Maternity	Surgical	Medical	Tuberculosis	General Nursing	Ante-Natal	Tuberculosis	Cases	Visits
Nil	Nil	52	181	Nil	5688	Nil	Nil	233	5688

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Ormskirk is well supplied with hospitals.

The Ormskirk General Hospital provides accommodation for acute and other cases from Ormskirk and district. It has an Out-Patient Department fully staffed by consulting surgeons and physicians from Liverpool.

The Ormskirk County Hospital has a large Maternity block and also admits chronic and senile cases from the surrounding districts.

The Ormskirk Infectious Diseases Hospital, owned and administered by the Council, receives patients from Ormskirk and, by arrangement, from West Lancashire Rural District, Skelmersdale Urban District, Billinge Urban District and Rainford Urban District. Frequently patients from other districts are received when certain infectious disease hospitals are full and Ormskirk Hospital takes the overflow.

The work done during the year is summarised as follows :—

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES FROM THE HOSPITAL'S AREA.

ADMISSIONS—29.

Scarlet Fever	.....	14
Diphtheria	.....	7
Erysipelas	.....	1
Tonsillitis	.....	3
Measles	.....	1
Vincent's Angina	.....	1
Influenza	.....	2

DISCHARGES—28.

Scarlet Fever	.....	15
Diphtheria	.....	6
Erysipelas	.....	1
Tonsillitis	.....	2
Measles	.....	1

DEATHS—2.

Diphtheria	.....	1
Vincent's Angina	.....	1

ADMISSIONS FROM OUTSIDE DISTRICTS.

Maghull	.....	Scarlet Fever 7, Diphtheria 4, Diphtheria Carriers 3, Tonsillitis 2, Glandular Fever 1, Erysipelas 1.
Banks	.....	Diphtheria 4.
Scarisbrick	.....	Scarlet Fever 4, Diphtheria 1, Rheumatic Fever 1.
Aughton	.....	Diphtheria 1, Rheumatic Fever 1.
Halsall	.....	Tonsillitis 1.
Thornton	.....	Scarlet Fever 1.
Altcar	.....	Diphtheria 3, Diphtheria carriers 2, Scarlet Fever 1, Tonsillitis 1.
Billinge	.....	Diphtheria 4.
Netherton	.....	Diphtheria 1, Diphtheria carrier 1, Scarlet Fever 3, Poliomyelitis 2.
Aintree	.....	Poliomyelitis 1.
Hesketh Bank	.....	Poliomyelitis 1.
Rufford	.....	Diphtheria 1.
Ford	.....	Poliomyelitis 1.
Manchester	.....	Nervous Exhaustion 1.

Subjoined is a statement of the outside work done in connection with the hospital:—

Journeys for patients	.....	.....	.....	78
Journeys for bedding	.....	.....	.....	35
Journeys for disinfecting	.....	.....	.....	33
No. of houses disinfected	.....	.....	.....	50
No. of rooms disinfected	.....	.....	.....	42
No. of articles stoved	.....	.....	.....	250
No. of times disinfectors used	.....	.....	.....	30

SECTION 3.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of the Town End, Cottage Lane and Halsall Lane area, the area of the Urban District is supplied from the Council's Waterworks undertakings, situated at Dark Lane and Greetby Hill.

The supply at Greetby Hill is obtained from the Bunter Rock in the New Red Sandstone, and that at Dark Lane from the Keuper and Bunter formations.

Both stations are equipped with electric plant operating vertical spindle centrifugal pumps with a combined capacity of over 100,000 gallons per hour.

The quality of water at the present time is of high organic purity and not particularly hard.

The extent to which the demand has increased is indicated by the following comparisons:—

Daily supply, 1934	.....	530,000 gallons.
Daily supply, 1947	.....	820,000 gallons.

The bulk of the area being typically agricultural, it is unavoidable that certain isolated cottages and farms in the district still obtain their supplies from wells. The number of properties not on public supply only amounts to 0.5% of the houses in the area.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

14th July, 1947.

GREETBY HILL WORKS.

	Station No. 1.	Station No. 2.
Re-action to Litmus	Neutral	Faintly acid.
pH Value	6.7	6.3
Dissolved Carbonic Acid (parts per 100,000)	3.6	3.6
Total solid in solution	41.68	29.12
Oxygen to oxidise—		
In 15 minutes	0.004	0.006
In 3 hours .....	.012	.012
Ammonia .....	.001	.001
Ammonia (from Organic matter) .....	.001	.001
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	.27	.44
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None	None
Combined Chlorine	4.35	3.55
Total Hardness	27.8	15.6

REMARKS.

The Water has the characteristics of a good deep well water and though moderately hard is quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Class 1. Highly satisfactory.

DARK LANE WORKS.

	Station No. 1.	Station No. 2.
Re-action to Litmus	Faintly acid.	Faintly acid.
pH Value	5.9	6.1
Dissolved Carbonic Acid (parts per 100,000)	2.8	3.5
Total solid in solution	23.84	29.44
Oxygen to oxidise—		
In 15 minutes	0.004	0.010
In 3 hours	0.012	0.027
Ammonia	0.001	0.001
Ammonia (from Organic matter)	0.001	0.003

Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.58	0.37
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None	None
Combined Chlorine	2.95	2.65
Total hardness	10.0	11.3

REMARKS.

The Water has the characteristics of a good deep well water and though moderately hard is quite suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.-

Class 1. Highly satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council maintain three Sewage Disposal Works which deal with Ormskirk, Burscough and Westhead. The sewage is passed through sedimentation tanks and sludge drying beds, the surface effluent being treated by rotary filter and discharged into brooks.

The New Lane works was enlarged in 1943 in order to deal with increased flow due to the Royal Naval Air Station.

The dry weather flow at Ormskirk is 625,000 gallons per day.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1947.

Number of fresh water closets	4610
„ „ pail closets	65
„ „ waste water closets	Nil
„ „ privies	766
„ „ privy middens	734
„ „ dry ashpits	127
„ „ dustbins	3,706

CONVERSIONS.

There were no conversions completed by the end of the year, but notices had been served with respect to five houses in the district and the work was in hand.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This work is carried out by the Council's own employees. Two motor vehicles each with three men and a driver, and two horse-drawn vehicles with two men and a driver are provided. The refuse is disposed of either by tipping on any hollow land that is convenient or by incineration at the refuse destructor. This however, is of an old type and very small, having only two cells and is used for refuse from the immediately surrounding area and for refuse from shops and houses collected by the horse-drawn vehicles.

The Council's rodent operative visits the tips at regular intervals.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited—

Houses	.....	260
Bakehouses	.....	18
Factories and Workshops	.....	83
Cowsheds and dairies	.....	52
Slaughter houses	.....	1
Shops	.....	12
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	.....	318
Number abated	.....	253
Number of notices served : Informal 311. Statutory 14.		
No legal proceedings were taken.		

CANAL BOATS.

During the year six canal boats were inspected and their condition was found to be satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now no common lodging houses in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths or pools in the district. There are two privately-owned swimming baths but they are not open to the public.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year twelve observations were taken and warnings were given in three cases. It was not found necessary to take any formal action.

A Byelaw made in pursuance of Section 2 of the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, is in force and prescribes the emission of black smoke for a period of two minutes in the aggregate within any continuous period of thirty minutes from any one chimney in a building other than a private dwelling-house shall, until the contrary is proved, presume to be a nuisance.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Three houses only were found to be very slightly infested and these were fumigated with Thermatox funigators. Owing to the very slight infestation it was not thought necessary to warrant the use of Hydrogen Cyanide.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

AND

THE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The Council's rodent operative has been fully engaged on the extermination of rats, although no large infestations were found in any part of the area.

During the year 1947 the following visits were made :—

Dwelling-houses 198, Food Stores 102, Factories 97, Refuse Tips 130, Sewage Works 50, Piggeries 25, Cafes and Shops 87, Salvage Depot 10.

These figures are lower than those for the year 1946, but this is due to the prolonged illness of the rodent operative.

All the sewers were treated, but the number of "bait takes" again proved very small.

Poisons used were arsenic, zinc phosphide and red squill.

SECTION 4.

H O U S I N G.

There is still a definite shortage of houses in the district, especially of the three bedroom type.

At the end of the year the Council had a scheme in progress for the erection of twenty-eight houses on the Manor Road Site, Burscough; and a scheme for the erection of thirty-two houses on the County Road Site was contemplated.

The general standard of housing can be classed as good. Many of the older houses are in need of repair and these are being dealt with as quickly as possible.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year	—	TOTAL	79
(i) By the Local Authority	.....	.....	66
(ii) By other Local Authorities	.....	.....	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	.....	.....	13

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	260
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	511
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	37
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	42
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	195

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	163
---	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied....	174
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made....	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

SECTION 5.

SCHOOLS.

The Urban District is provided with fifteen schools. These include one Grammar School, one secondary Modern School, ten Public Elementary Schools, one Nursery School, and two Private Schools.

Descriptions of these Schools were given in the Annual Report for 1945, but the following comments are now added.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Further pre-fabricated huts have been provided in the playground in Mill Street. It is understood that these will be used as dining rooms, thereby freeing the existing dining room in the main building for additional class rooms.

UNITED CHARITY C.E. SCHOOL, DERBY STREET.

Extra accommodation has been made by utilising the Congregational Church Hall, Chapel Street, as a class room. This houses some 40 of the older girls (10-11 years), but has relieved the main school only slightly, owing to increasing school population.

A site for a new junior school has been selected and it is hoped that this school, which is so urgently needed, will soon be started.

UNITED CHARITY C.E. SCHOOL FOR JUNIOR BOYS, AUGHTON STREET.

The numbers here are increasing steadily, partly due to the closing of the kindergarten section of the Grammar School, to which many children under 11 years were previously sent privately.

The new school mentioned above will also take over the Junior Boys in Aughton Street.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The Day Nursery building in Bridge Street was taken over by the Education Committee on April 1st, 1946, and opened as a Nursery School.

This is a pre-fabricated building of good construction. It has accommodation for 40 children under 5. There is always a waiting list for places there, which shows that it is filling a need in Ormskirk.

LIST OF SCHOOLS IN THE ORMSKIRK URBAN DISTRICT.

Div. No.	School	School No.	No. of Children. on Roll on 1st January, 1948.
16	Ormskirk Grammar School	120	311 boys. 353 girls.
16	St. John's (Mixed) C. of E.	1	80 boys. 85 girls
16	St. John's (Infants) C. of E.	1	43 Boys. 45 Girls
16	Burscough Bridge Methodist	2	120 Boys. 94 Girls
16	St. John's R.C.	3	45 Boys, 48 Girls
16	Lathom Park C. of E.	4	6 Boys. 7 Girls
16	Newburgh C. of E.	5	57 Boys, 54 Girls
16	Lathom St. James' C. of E.	6	45 Boys. 44 Girls
16	Ormskirk United Charity (Junior Boys)	11B	237 Boys
16	Ormskirk U.C. (Girls and Infants)	11G	113 Boys. 308 Girls
16	St. Anne's R.C. (Mixed)	12M	106 Boys, 104 Girls.
16	St. Anne's R.C. (Infants)	12 I	63 Boys, 46 Girls
16	Wigan Rd. Secondary Modern School (Boys Dept.)	101B	197 Boys
	(Girls Dept.)	101G	238 Girls
16	Nursery School	150	18 boys. 22 girls.

TABLE SHOWING THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF EACH SCHOOL IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

School	Washing Accommodation.	Water Supply	Cloakroom	Closet Accommodation	Feet from School	Drainage.
St. John's (Senior) C.E.	4 basin girls, 3 boys	Public Main	Separate	6 W.C's. girls, 4 W.C's boys.	18	Public Sewer
St. John's (Junior) C.E.	2 basins, 1 sink	"	One only	3 W.C's used in common	18	" "
Burscough Bridge Meth.	3 basins girls, 2 boys, 3 infants	"	Separate	4 W.C's. girls, 4 boys, 4 infants	40	" "
St. John's R.C.	4 basins for communal use	"	One only	5 W.C's girls, 5 boys	0	" "
Lathom Park C.E.	2 basins for communal use	"	One only	2 Pail closets girls, 2 boys	60	Open brook
St. Newburgh C.E.	One sink for girls and infants only	"	Separate	4 Pail closets girls and infants, 2 boys	18	Road Drain
Lathom St. James' C.E.	One sink girls, 1 sink boys	"	Separate	6 Trough closets girls, 3 boys	60	Public Sewer
Lordsgate Township	6 basins girls, 4 boys	"	Separate	4 W.C's. girls, 3 boys	Inside	" "
Ormskirk U.C. Boys	5 basins in cloakroom	"	One-adequate	5 Trough closets	50	" "
Ormskirk U.C. (Girls & Infants)	4 Basins girls, 4 Infants	"	Separate	4 Trough closets girls, 4 Infant boys	120	" "
St. Anne's R.C.	4 basins in passage (Communal)	"	Separate	5 Trough closets Infants and girls, 3 Trough closets boys	5 24	" " " "
Wigan Rd. Secondary	13 basins girls, 13 boys	"	Separate	14 W.C's. girls, 5 boys	Inside	" "

ORMSKIRK SCHOOL CLINIC AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Each Monday.

a.m. Minor Ailments †Dr. Hailwood. Nurse Lloyd.

p.m. Child Welfare Centre Dr. Hailwood. Nurse Lloyd.

Each Tuesday.

p.m. Orthopædic. ‡Mr. McMurray. Nurse Graham.

Each Wednesday.

p.m. Re-dressings. Nurse Lloyd.

Each Friday.

a.m. Dental Clinic Mr. Ashman.

& p.m.

† Dr. Hailwood attends 1st and 3rd Mondays in month only.

‡ Mr. McMurray attends 1st Tuesday in month only.

BURSCOUGH CHILD WELFARE CLINIC (OLD COUNCIL OFFICES).

Each Thursday.

p.m. Child Welfare Clinic. † Dr. Hailwood. Nurse Lloyd.

† Dr. Hailwood attends alternate Thursdays.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Ormskirk Council Offices	p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday. in month at 2 p.m.	Dr. Sergeant and Miss Knight.
Burscough Council Offices	p.m. 1st Monday in month.	Dr. Sergeant and Miss Knight.

SECTION 6

(a) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Sanitary Inspectors make visits to dairies and cowsheds at least twice per year.

With one or two exceptions their general condition was satisfactory.

Limewashing was found to be overdue in six cases, but was subsequently carried out.

Two owners voluntarily undertook structural alterations to their farm buildings. One cowshed was completely re-modelled at a cost of approximately £500. and the other was considerably improved, the cost being about £176.

Fifteen samples of milk were taken for examination for B. coli and methylene blue test.

Eleven proved satisfactory and four unsatisfactory.

Six samples were taken for examination for Tubercle Bacilli and all proved to be negative.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Tuberculin Tested Milk.	2 Bottling licences and 2 distribution licences.
-------------------------	--

Accredited Milk. 1 Bottling Licence and 1 distribution licence.
------------------	--

Pasteurised Milk. 2 Distribution licences.
-------------------	--------------------------------

(b) MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There is only one licensed slaughter house in the district and this is licensed for the slaughter of pigs only.

During the year 633 pigs were inspected and three whole carcasses and ten heads were condemned, all being affected with Tuberculosis.

In addition the following foodstuffs were examined and condemned :—

226 tins Milk, 114 tins Meat, 31 tins Fish, 20 tins Vegetables, 16 tins Fruit, 10 tins Jam, 31 tins Meat and Vegetables, 21 lbs. Butter, 299 lbs. Bacon, 29 lbs. Sweets, 22 lbs. Cheese, 40 lbs. Wet Fish, 10 tins Soup, 2 packets Cereals, 2 packets Baking Powder, 2 packets Semolina, 4 bottles Sauce, 4 bottles Orange Squash, 4 cwts. Potatoes.

(c) ADULTERATION.

The section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with adulteration is administered by the Lancashire County Council and I am indebted to Doctor Hall, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information :—

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1947.

Of a total of 122 samples obtained, 105 were of milk and the 17 others comprised :—

2 Lard	2 Glycerin of Borax
3 Borac Acid	3 Syrup
1 Beef and Ham Paste	1 Dried Figs.
1 Cooking Fat	1 Epsom Salts
2 Meat Paste	1 Dates

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of one Glycerin of Borax, which was found to be deficient of 19.5 per cent. Borax. A communication with regard to this matter was addressed to the Vendor.

ORMSKIRK MARKET.

The Ormskirk Market is an ancient institution dating from April 28th, 1286, when King Edward the First granted "a Thursday market and a five days' fair" to the town for ever. The rights in the Market appear to have been vested in the Earl of Lancaster, for on the 29th September, 1286, those rights were transferred by the Charter of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, to the Prior of Burscough Abbey on the payment of an annual sum. The alienation of these Market rights is confirmed by the Charter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, in 1339.

The rights remained vested in the Priory until the Dissolution of the Monasteries about 1536, and after its surrender to King Henry VIII. by Robert Barton, the last prior (who died in 1553) the Priory was granted to Sir William Paget, K.G., Principal Secretary of State in 1547.

A little over a century later (on the 23rd June, 1670) King Charles II. granted to Charles, the Eighth Earl of Derby, and his successors, the right to hold and keep two fairs, one in Whitsun week and the other at the end of August in each year, and a market to be held on Thursdays.

By a conveyance dated the 30th day of September, 1876, the Rights in the Market were sold by the Earl of Derby to the Ormskirk Local Board for £1,000.

The Ormskirk Local Board made Byelaws, which were allowed by the Local Government Board on the 17th December, 1881, whereby a market was to be held on Thursday and Saturday of each week throughout the year, which were amended to provide that a market was to be held on each week day throughout the year " unless the same shall be a day duly appointed for solemn fast or public thanksgiving."

Consequent upon the amalgamation Order of 1931 whereby Ormskirk Urban District was amalgamated with the Urban District of Lathom and Burscough the byelaws lapsed and new byelaws were made on the 19th December, 1935. These included *inter alia*, the fixing of the days and hours during each day on which the market shall be held. Regulations as to the use of the market place and the buildings, stalls, pens and standings therein, and for preventing nuisances or obstructions therein, or in the immediate approaches thereto. Penalties for offences against the byelaws. A table of Tolls leviable in the market was incorporated.

The market continued to be held throughout the war years, although on a limited scale. It has now regained much of its colourfulness, and each Thursday Moor Street, Moorgate and Aughton Street are filled with market stalls and itinerant tradesmen of all kinds. The Saturday market is limited to Moor Street except for an occasional two or three stalls in Aughton Street, but nevertheless there is much trading, especially in home produce.

It is the practice of the Health Department to make regular inspections of all the market stalls and the Sanitary Inspectors pay particular attention to those stalls selling foodstuffs each market day.

SECTION 7.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Two hundred and thirty-four cases of infectious diseases were notified to the Health Department during the year, of these 41 were cases of Scarlet Fever, which occurred in small numbers throughout the year.

A small epidemic of Measles occurred in March and April and accounted for the majority of the 158 cases notified.

There were 8 notifications of Diphtheria of which one was over school age. Two children died from this disease. Neither had been immunised.

Although 1947 was notable for the largest epidemic of Anterior Poliomyelitis ever to occur in this country, Ormskirk escaped with a single case, a boy of 14, who unfortunately died. This case was believed to have been infected whilst on holiday in the Channel Islands.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria has been continued during the year with satisfactory results. A total of 272 children completed a course of Immunisation, of whom 161 were below the age of two, the most important time for primary immunisation.

The following table shows the number of children in the Ormskirk Urban District who have now completed a course of Immunisation :—

	Under 5	5—14	Total
Total Population in Age Group	1707	2789	4496
Total No. Immunised	672	2694	3366
Percentage	39.4	96.6	74.9

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of persons, in age groups, completely immunised.

Age	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	1	2	—	17	58	
1 year	1	—	—	1	2	101	84	65	89	133	136	103	
2 „	1	—	1	2	14	101	99	1	11	31	39	10	Total under 5 years at end of 1947
3 „	2	1	—	4	11	75	83	12	10	19	29	13	
4 „	1	—	1	1	11	98	78	20	17	14	24	11	672
5 „	—	2	1	—	21	242	96	22	16	41	29	20	
6 „	1	—	1	1	19	150	91	15	10	17	16	16	
7 „	—	—	—	4	13	161	60	9	12	33	7	7	Total 5-9 years at end of 1947.
8 „	1	1	1	—	27	201	75	8	10	31	9	13	
9 „	1	—	1	—	15	196	67	8	7	21	2	3	1120
10 „	3	1	1	—	29	200	76	11	13	19	3	1	
11 „	2	1	1	1	8	229	73	4	14	12	2	2	Total 10-14 years at end of 1947.
12 „	—	—	—	—	5	207	59	2	9	29	—	4	
13 „	—	—	—	—	1	198	42	7	3	21	2	6	1574
14 „	2	—	—	—	2	42	19	1	1	5	—	1	
15 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	12	20	5	1	—	—	4	Total over 14 at end of 1946 1549
TOTAL	15	6	8	14	178	2220	1028	208	225	426	315	272	4915

Total number of children who were given reinforcing injections — 334

Total number of children under 14 who have been immunised — 3366

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1947

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.												Total Cases removed to Hospital.		Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Un-der 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over				
Scarlet Fever	41	2	3	4	8	18	2	3	1					13			
Diphtheria	8		1	1	1	1	3	1							6	1	
Measles	158	3	12	6	18	22	76	3	3	2				1			
Pneumonia	8					1				2	1						
Erysipelas	1										1						
Whooping Cough	17	2	5	4		6											
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1						1							1			
TOTALS	234	3	16	25	27	31	102	9	7	4	4	2	4	18	22	1	

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER AND NATURE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
COMING UNDER THE NOTICE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH DURING 1947

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	4	6	1		1	3	1	3	7	7	6	2	41
Diphtheria							2		6				8
Pneumonia	1	3	3						1				8
Erysipelas									1				1
Measles	3	7	52	46	20	19	2	4	5				158
Whooping Cough									17				17
Acute Poliomyelitis								1					1
Monthly Totals	8	16	56	46	21	22	5	8	37	7	6	2	234

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—								
1—				1				
5—								
10—								
15—	1	1						
20—		2	1	1		2		
25—		1				1		
35—	4	1	1		2	1		
45—	2							
55—	1							
65 and upwards								
Totals	8	5	2	2	2	4		
	13		4		6		Nil	

The services of the County Tuberculosis Officer were found valuable and were much appreciated. In all cases notification was prompt.

